

# Wabash '91

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For this Class Agent Letter, we've asked classmate **Roland Morin** to discuss a new initiative that's taking Wabash's liberal arts curriculum to exciting new levels. Take it away, Roland...

## THE LIBERAL ARTS PLUS



Can you imagine what we could have done with the resources available to Wabash students today? For instance, President Hess has established four [Liberal Arts PLUS initiatives](#). LA+ provides students with focused training and experience in various sectors:

- [Democracy & Public Discourse](#)
- [Global Health](#)
- [Digital Arts & Human Values](#)
- [Center for Innovation, Business & Entrepreneurship](#) (That's the one I run.)

The CIBE is funded by a very generous grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc. Got to love Lilly! This is my second year setting up and running the CIBE. I never thought I would be back working at Wabash, but after 20+ years at marketing and consulting firms around the world, I am having an amazing time. The only drawback is actually living in Crawfordville again.



*Jake Budler '17*

What is the CIBE? It's a resource to help support students as they engage in internships, immersive experiences, entrepreneurship, and management opportunities during their time at Wabash. CIBE programs give students from all majors experiences where they will apply their Wabash education to solving real-world problems.

This year, the CIBE alone will reach 30% of students, provide 70 paid internships, 3 week-long immersion programs, 3 week-long business fundamentals programs, and a 7-week class in entrepreneurship where the students are paid to learn. Again, *where were these programs when we were students?*

The CIBE and other LA+ initiatives focuses on a 4-step process to enhance a student's liberal arts education and experience:

1. We get students the Wabash classroom education they need to have a rock-solid understanding of topics. From Deliberations to Biology to the summer [Liberal Arts Bridges to Business \(LABB\) Program](#), each of these build student's knowledge base for Step 2.
2. We place students into immersion programs during the academic year or breaks to give them an extra edge and deep-dive into a topic like marketing, health care, finance, decision-making or 3D printing.
3. We work with students to help them find a meaningful internship experience where they can put Steps 1 and 2 to work, making a difference for a company, nonprofit, or government agency.
4. We put students to work on campus, using Steps 1, 2, and 3 to make a difference on campus and in the larger community. This could be performing data analysis for the Registrar's office, scribing for the public health clinic physician, or developing a bike share program for Crawfordville.

Why do we take this approach? Because we know in the end our students are going to have an amazing story to tell about how they have already put their Wabash education to work, changing the world.

And it pays off. Last May, 29 students graduated in the Class of 2015, and by April 1, 96% of them had full-time job offers, reporting that they talked specifically about their CIBE experiences in their interviews. The Liberal Arts PLUS is making a difference for students.

Next time you're on campus, I invite you to stop by [Arnold House](#), and you can see the CIBE at work.

## REUNION UPDATE

**June 3-5, 2016**

That's the date of our 25<sup>th</sup> Reunion at Big Bash. The College already has the schedule up on the website ([wabash.edu/alumni/reunion/schedule](http://wabash.edu/alumni/reunion/schedule)), and they'll start taking reservations right after the New Year. Look for the full invite in the mail around March 1.

The good folks at the Alumni Office have already blocked off rooms under **Wabash College Big Bash** at the [Holiday Inn Express in Crawfordsville](#) where we'll set up home base and take over one of their event rooms for the weekend.

We're still started lining up living unit reps (**Chris Cotton** has agreed to help wrangle the Sigma Chis), and we'll be reaching out to others of you. We're also looking for a Reunion Chairman to help us with the planning. **If you can help in either capacity let us know.**

Once again, the College will issue a Donor Challenge: If we beat the number of donors last fiscal year (94) by the registration deadline in May, we'll have an open bar at the class dinner on the Saturday of Big Bash. We're working on some reunion goals, so expect more details to come. But Hugh couldn't wait and is already issuing a challenge:

***If Wabash College receives more than 100 donations of any amount from members of the Class of 1991 before Big Bash Weekend 2016, the Class of '91 will receive a keg of craft beer to enjoy for the weekend.***

## PAYING IT FORWARD

Speaking of giving, our class has [just 22 donors](#) for this first half of the College's fiscal year. So, if you haven't [made a gift to Wabash](#) yet this year, why not take **Rich Calacci's** advice?

As for me, I gave in April, but my company just recently set up matching gifts, and they just approved my request. Check into matching giving at your work.

## WHAT'S NEW?

We had a great response from our Where Are They Now? callout. You can [fill out an update online](#) or drop a line to [alumni@wabash.edu](mailto:alumni@wabash.edu).

We wish you and your families a very joyous holiday season, a Merry Christmas, and a prosperous New Year! Wabash Always Fights!

Kip & Hugh



*“Walking around this campus at night with a new fallen snow, I always fall in love with it all over again.”  
—Dr. William C. Placher ‘70*